

January 5, 2022

## NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have always been a believer in new beginnings and throughout my lifetime, I experienced several of them in many different areas of my life. To me, always, the beginning of a new year means a chance to start different projects, to change or improve oneself in a myriad of ways or to perhaps forge new relationships. There are so many other possibilities.

A new beginning always involves hope: we hope that that new job will pan out, we hope that we can rise to the responsibility of parenthood, we hope that we can be a good friend or family member, son, daughter. We hope for many things.

With all that has gone on with this pandemic and its many effects on people these past two years, there are finally signs of hope. Of course, we are not "out of the woods" yet. Our staff at CLAPW, led by our Executive Director, Lisa McNee-Baker, and our very hard-working managers have had, to put it mildly, a very busy two years and, just when we were beginning to see some light, the latest variant hit and now our very capable managers and our front-line workers and volunteers are back at it again, working to the max.

But there are signs of hope. For example, scientifically, society knows a lot more about this pandemic and how to deal with it and along with this comes hope. Ironically perhaps, although there have been long periods of isolation, people have come together in different ways. Our online volunteer programs have been a great example of this. I hope that, when regular programming resumes, there will still be a place for our newly developed online approach. So much potential for doing things differently and yes, in some cases better, exists. As we start this new beginning of 2022, let us hope that we prioritize the well-being of ourselves so that we can affect the well-being of others in our lives resulting in an interconnectedness that will be enduring and that this interconnectedness will result in a greater love for one another!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Community Living, Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have served our organization and to our fine supported people who make up our organization and who make our organization better. I wish you all good health, happiness, and hope for 2022.

Happy New Year!

Joe Visconti  
CLAPW Board President

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